

Annual Meeting Planning Committee

Each year the Annual Meeting Planning Committee is a new committee. As various one year appointments begin, others end. This year also saw a number of long time members head in different directions. A new worship team is in place, along with a new music team, new co-chairs for Intermediates@Conference, not to mention the chair of the planning committee as well as the chair of local arrangements. With so many new people and so many new passions, a theme started to emerge. We knew there were so many stories that needed to be told. As we each went back to our different committees, the idea of sharing our own faith stories began to take hold.

When the Youth Forum team came back to us with the idea of a Faith Fair, it was felt that everyone at conference would benefit from time spent learning how others live out their faith. By adding workshops, the planning committee felt, not only would people have the opportunity to share their stories, but to dig deeper and inspire other acts of faith. It's one thing to ask folks to share their faith stories, it's another thing all together to share your own. We knew this needed to be a mutual experience. We couldn't ask people to share, without having someone to listen. So a theme was born: "Stories of Faith: Telling...Listening...Sharing"

We've gathered a variety of people and have asked them to share their stories of faith in a variety of ways: as speakers, as writers, in video, at the faith fair, in workshops and in worship. Sharing our faith stories will help us to gain perspective as we discuss heavy and important issues such as the comprehensive review and the affirming process. Rooting ourselves in a listening and sharing process will help to ensure that each voice around the table is heard, and folks go home with the courage and experience to speak about their faith.

As we head into this Annual Meeting, may it be a place to express your faith story, may it be filled with listening, may it be a time of sharing the sacred.

With gratitude,

Annika Sangster, AMPC chair